



## WHOSE LINE IS IT, ANYWAY?

Every story has to start somewhere. The first sentence of a book sets the tone for the rest of the story and gives the reader a clue about where the story will go next. Can you guess which book it is, just by the first line?



### How to Play:

1. Choose one player to be the Reader, who will read aloud the first sentence of one Read Local Challenge book. (You do not need to go in order - choose whichever book you think will stump everyone!)
2. Players call out their guesses when they think they know the answer. First player to guess the correct title gets one point. (Bonus point if you also know the author!)
3. If no one knows the answer, Reader may give the 1-line book blurb as a clue.
4. If players still can't guess the correct answer, Reader gets a point. They will announce the answer, and then move on to the next one.

## Bonus Game: FIRST SENTENCES

First sentences are brimming with promises and possibilities. In the hands of a different author, the same first sentence might lead to a completely different story! Play the First Sentences game and test your creativity. Will your story be serious or silly? Funny or frightening? Merry or melancholy? Try writing your own story with just the information you see here: the book title (& author), a description of the book, and the first sentence. How is your story similar to the one the author told? How is it different? You can play the First Sentences game alone or with a group of friends. The more people you have playing, the funnier your stories will probably get, so grab twenty or thirty of your closest friends!

### How to Play:

1. Sit in a circle, so you can all see each other.
2. Pick someone to go first (the Story Starter). This could be the youngest member of your group, or the one whose birthday is coming up next, or the one whose first name sounds closest to the author's name.
3. The Story Starter reads the book title, author's name, and the paragraph about the book to the group. Then, they read first sentence aloud to the whole group, and add a sentence of their own to continue the story.
4. The next player adds a new sentence, and so on around the circle until you have a complete story.

# Picture Book Challenge 2018-19

## *An Artist's Night Before Christmas*

**AUTHOR:** Joan Waites

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *A story of lost confidence and renewed determination, this book introduces art terms, materials, techniques, and art's modern masters.*

**FIRST LINE:** 'Twas the night before Christmas, in a cute country house.

## *Life in the Amazon Rainforest*

**AUTHOR:** Ginjer L. Clarke

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Learn all about the largest rainforest in the world as you explore this tropical habitat!*

**FIRST LINE:** A noisy animal lets out its whooping call.

## *Eat Your U.S. History Homework: Recipes for Revolutionary Minds*

**AUTHOR:** Ann McCallum Staats

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *"Cook up YUM as you discover, march through, and mull over fun facts about America's history."*

**FIRST LINE:** "Ah-choo! Oh, no, a sneezing attack!"

## *Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles*

**AUTHOR:** Patricia Valdez

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *"Valdez paints a portrait of a unique woman whose love for reptiles developed into a gratifying career."—Publishers Weekly, starred review"*

**FIRST LINE:** Back in the days of long skirts and afternoon teas, a little girl named Joan Procter entertained the most unusual party guests.

## *Mother Ghost: Nursery Rhymes for Little Monsters*

**AUTHOR:** Rachel Kolar

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Thirteen classic nursery rhymes with Halloween twists, from "'Mary, Mary, Tall and Scary'" to "'Wee Willie Werewolf."*

**FIRST LINE:** Boys and girls, come trick or treat



## *Passing the Music Down*

**AUTHOR:** Sarah Sullivan

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *A warmhearted ode to an American musical tradition and to generational ties, told in lyrical free verse with atmospheric illustrations.*

**FIRST LINE:** Come August, with corn strutting high in the fields and tomatoes plumping out on the vine, folks get to talking about tuning up and heading over twisty mountain roads to hear fiddle players and banjo pickers make music under the stars.

## *I Got a Chicken for My Birthday*

**AUTHOR:** Laura Gehl

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Ana wanted tickets to the amusement park. Instead, she got a chicken. Could this possibly be the best gift ever?*

**FIRST LINE:** I got a chicken for my birthday.

## *Short Pump Bump! A Lyrical, Spherical, Rhyming Romp Through Richmond*

**AUTHOR:** Scott DuBar

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** Short Pump Bump takes readers on a colorful trip through Richmond, Virginia.

**FIRST LINE:** I rise with the sun on this brand new day, Opportunity Time, I'm on my way.

## *Masterpiece Robot and the Ferocious Valerie Knick-knack*

**AUTHOR:** Rebecca Evans

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Imagination transforms a backyard into a futuristic battleground and siblings into participants in a fight for a planet's survival.*

**FIRST LINE:** Laura, take your little sister outside with Amber and Roman.

## *Mama Africa: How Miriam Makeba Spread Hope with her Song*

**AUTHOR:** Kathryn Erskine

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *The story of South African singer and activist who used her voice to fight oppression.*

**FIRST LINE:** Miriam sang as soon as she could talk and danced as soon as she could walk.



## *Nita's First Signs*

**AUTHOR:** Kathy MacMillan

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Familias Press* Nita knows just how to tell Mommy and Daddy what she needs - she just has to use her signs!

**FIRST LINE:** Nita is in her high chair eating crackers.

## *Oliver's Otter Phase*

**AUTHOR:** Lisa Connors

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Oliver decides to be a sea otter after a trip to an aquarium. Does a boy have what it takes to be an otter?*

**FIRST LINE:** Oliver's otter phase began one morning after a trip to the aquarium.

## *One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count with Me*

**AUTHOR:** John Micklos, Jr.

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Young readers can count their way through the seasons in this charming counting book.*

**FIRST LINE:** One leaf, two leaves on the tree...

## *The Penguin Lady*

**AUTHOR:** Carol A. Cole

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *The Penguin Lady will help children learn more about penguins and where they live, through geography. It will also reinforce counting.*

**FIRST LINE:** Penelope Parker lived on Penguin Place.

## *Puddle Pug*

**AUTHOR:** Kim Norman

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Percy the Pug loves puddles of every sort! But no puddle is perfect... until he finds one with three friendly piglets.*

**FIRST LINE:** Percy was a puddle pug.



## *Porcupine's Pie*

**AUTHOR:** Laura Renault

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *When her friends can't bake their specialty for Fall Feast, Porcupine opens her pantry to them. Her kindness leads to a new tradition.*

**FIRST LINE:** Porcupine prickled with excitement.

## *The Princess and the Frogs*

**AUTHOR:** Veronica Bartles

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Princess Cassandra wants a frog, but she keeps kissing them goodnight and ends up with a castle full of princes instead. Princes aren't pets!*

**FIRST LINE:** Princess Cassandra should have been the happiest princess in the world.

## *Sweet Success*

**AUTHOR:** Liz and Jimmy Reed

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Nothing makes Scoops happier than starting a sweet new project. She just isn't the best at completing them.*

**FIRST LINE:** Sprinkle Dee Scoops loved to make things.

## *Vivian and the Legend of the Hoodoos*

**AUTHOR:** Terry Catasús Jennings

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Through a native legend, Vivian discovers her tribe's heritage while exploring erosion and the need to protect our natural resources.*

**FIRST LINE:** The rabbit brush was done blooming; pine nuts were ready for picking.

## *If You Give The Puffin A Muffin*

**AUTHOR:** Timothy Young

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *The Angry Little Puffin is back but this time he's angry about something entirely different!*

**FIRST LINE:** Besides, just because Muffin rhymes with Puffin does not mean I want to eat one!



# Middle Grade Challenge 2018-19

## *Lalli's Window*

**AUTHOR:** Kamakshi P. Murti

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *When eleven-year-old Lalli loses a leg, her bedroom window defines her world.*

**FIRST LINE:** A wheelchair is as cool as can be!

## *All That's Missing*

**AUTHOR:** Sarah Sullivan

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *On a journey to find the grandmother he's never known, Arlo finds a girl who picks locks, a dog who jumps out of car windows and a ghost.*

**FIRST LINE:** Arlo was sitting in math class, thinking about the note Mrs. Gretzky had pressed into his hand five days ago, the one Arlo had opened at home and read through three times just to make sure it was as bad as he thought, the one he was going to have to forge his grandfather's signature on before he could return it to school.

## *Bone's Gift*

**AUTHOR:** Angie Smibert

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *A blend of mystery and magic set in small Appalachian coal mining community in the midst of WWII*

**FIRST LINE:** Bone Phillips floated in the cool, muddy water of the New River up to her eyeballs.

## *Beep and Bob: Too Much Space!*

**AUTHOR:** Jonathan Roth

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *A funny and action-packed chapter book series about the new kid at space school and the devoted little alien who won't leave his side.*

**FIRST LINE:** Dear Kids of the Past, Hi, my name's Bob, and I live and go to school in space.

## *Tiny Infinities*

**AUTHOR:** J.H. Diehl

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Funny and devastatingly honest, this sharply observed depiction of family, friendship, and determination to prove one's self, rings loud and true.*

**FIRST LINE:** Harriet says I am a backstroker at heart, which is true.



Read Local Challenge sponsored by:  
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators  
**MD/DE/WV**  
Maryland/Delaware/West Virginia with Washington D.C. & Virginia

## *The Battle of Junk Mountain*

**AUTHOR:** Lauren Abbey Greenberg

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *A 12-year-old girl navigates a friendship in peril, a grandmother who hoards, and the danger of trying to hold on too hard to one's past.*

**FIRST LINE:** I didn't expect my summer sister to ditch me the first minute of vacation.

## *Maddy and Cole Vol. 1: The Food Truck Grand Prix*

**AUTHOR:** Richie Frieman

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Maddy and Cole help their grandfather, Pop Pop Fantastico win a competitive food truck competition.*

**FIRST LINE:** I shifted on my pillow when my dad shouted from the bottom of the steps, "Maddy Moo, time to get up!"

## *Power Forward*

**AUTHOR:** Hena Khan

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *A 4th grader struggles to reach his basketball dreams in this series opener.*

**FIRST LINE:** I've imagined lots of ways to get famous.

## *The Incredible Magic of Being*

**AUTHOR:** Kathryn Erskine

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Julian deals with his anxiety and fears by resolutely believing in the power of the universe to solve our problems.*

**FIRST LINE:** Magic is all around us but most people never see it.

## *To the Copper Country-Mihaela's Journey*

**AUTHOR:** Barbara Carney-Coston

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Journey with us on a meteorite hunt, into an impact crater, and on a search for asteroids on a collision course with planet Earth.*

**FIRST LINE:** Mihaela's heart raced faster than the train rumbling along the tracks.



# *Awesome Minds: The Inventors of LEGO Toys*

**AUTHOR:** Erin Hagar

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *A heartwarming collection of stories about beloved rescued pets from dogs and cats and from tortoises to donkeys.*

**FIRST LINE:** This is a LEGO brick.

## **Young Adult Challenge 2018-19**

### *The Disturbed Girl's Dictionary*

**AUTHOR:** NoNieqa Ramos

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Macy Cashmere is labeled emotionally disturbed. With humor and heart, Macy writes a personal dictionary to define life on her own terms.*

**FIRST LINE:** Always/Never Interjection. sometimes hated. Always feared. Never disrespected.

### *Bewitching Hannah*

**AUTHOR:** Leigh Goff

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *The last thing Hannah wants is to be a witch...*

**FIRST LINE:** I didn't know if fate could be altered, but I hoped for the possibility.

### *The Tombs*

**AUTHOR:** Deborah Schaumberg

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *In 1882 New York, a young aura seer must free her mother from The Tombs where seers are being experimented upon and used against their will.*

**FIRST LINE:** This must be how madness begins.

### *How She Died, How I Lived*

**AUTHOR:** Mary Crockett

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *GIRL IN PIECES meets THE WAY I USED TO BE in this powerful book about a girl overcoming survivor's guilt after a classmate's brutal murder.*

**FIRST LINE:** I guess I have Simon Alexander Rushford III to thank.





# *Everywhere You Want to Be*

**AUTHOR:** Christina June

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *A dancer spends her summer in NYC avoiding sabotage, making amends with a past love, and learning the power of friendship.*

**FIRST LINE:** I hated lying to my mother.

# *Dagger and Coin*

**AUTHOR:** Kathy MacMillan

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Soraya was meant to be queen. But in the wake of her city's destruction, can she work with her former enemies and become a true leader?*

**FIRST LINE:** My father would have been ashamed that the assassin didn't target me.

# *Twelve Steps*

**AUTHOR:** Veronica Bartles

**ONE-LINE BOOK DESCRIPTION:** *Tired of living in the shadow of her perfect older sister, Andi decides she needs a 12-step program for 2nd-class siblings.*

**FIRST LINE:** There should be a support group for kids with perfect siblings.

